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Chairman: Mr. Niculescu ..... (Romania)

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00-68546 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Agenda item 92: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(e) Financing of development, including net transfer of resources between developing and developed countries (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.2

1. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as of Mexico, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.2. The draft resolution emphasized the importance of mobilizing all sources available for the provision of international financing for development, taking into account the problems of developing countries, and reaffirmed the role played by the United Nations in the efforts to build up an international consensus for a new international financial architecture.

2. **Mr. Escanero** (Mexico) said that the draft resolution, which his delegation had sponsored, reflected the substance of the Millennium Declaration and recognized the importance of appropriately focusing efforts with respect to the preparatory process for the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development. It was a balanced text that reflected progress achieved over the last few years in the debate on the international financial architecture and on the role of the United Nations in achieving greater convergence of efforts with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other institutions in order to establish an appropriate international financial architecture in a framework of global justice and equity.

Agenda item 94: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*) (A/55/218)

(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (*continued*) (A/55/89-E/2000/80, A/55/209)

(b) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*) (A/55/188)

(c) Cultural development (*continued*) (A/55/339)

(d) High-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (*continued*) (A/55/314)

(e) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (*continued*) (A/55/83-E/2000/62 and A/55/121)

3. **Mr. Waki** (Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), noting the contribution that the Fund was making towards the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), reiterated the Fund's continued support for the preparations for the five-year review of the Conference to be conducted in 2001. At the Millennium Summit, world leaders had recognized that the fight against poverty required concerted action to address the future of cities, where population growth would be concentrated during the period 2000-2030, making them the single largest influence on development. Most of that population growth would occur in the poorest countries and, since cities were centres of social, cultural and economic transformation, their growth would increasingly affect people living in rural areas, in view of the close links between the urban and rural areas in such countries.

4. UNFPA activities in the areas of human settlements and sustainable development were guided by the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognized that the concentration of population in urban areas was an intrinsic dimension of economic and social development. The greatest challenge in that regard was coping with the enormous strain that rapid urbanization would place on social services and infrastructure in the developing world. The review in 1999 of the outcome of the International Conference on Population and Development had underscored the need to integrate population concerns into development strategies and planning, taking into account the interrelationship of population issues with the goals of poverty eradication, food security, adequate shelter,

employment and basic social services for all. It was vital to meet the time-bound goals of the Conference as well as the benchmarks of the five-year review relating to reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, mortality reduction and the elimination of the gender gap in education if urban areas were to be centres of hope and not of hopelessness.

5. UNFPA supported government efforts and worked with partners to help achieve the independent goals and objectives of the Habitat Agenda, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the key actions planned under the five-year review through urban and rural reproductive health programmes, research into the linkages between population, migration and urban growth and their implications for human settlements. UNFPA had participated in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. At the country level, it was also supporting integrated population and development policy and planning.

6. In support of the objectives of the Habitat Agenda and in the context of the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, UNFPA provided assistance through its country programmes to strengthen institutions and data collection and analysis for integrated planning at all levels. It also worked closely with key partners to help build national capacity for the realization of balanced settlements, sustainable environments and improved human development. At the regional level, it supported the strengthening of human resources for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the areas of planning, advocacy and the provision of quality reproductive health service.

7. UNFPA, in its capacity as joint task manager, collaborated with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on "gender equality" and with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development on "balanced settlements". It would continue to collect and disseminate relevant information for the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

8. Making sustainable cities would require integrated plans that linked balanced development of rural and urban areas to poverty eradication. It would also be necessary to empower women through education, greater involvement in decision-making in government and community institutions and better entrepreneurial opportunities for both urban and rural women. Also vital would be enabling environments that encouraged all elements of society to participate. Meeting the universally agreed goals and pledges concerning increased investment in social development was vital for the future of cities, and for the healthy lives of women and men. UNFPA reaffirmed its commitment to be an active partner in that collaborative effort.

9. **Mr. Diallo** (Guinea) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The information contained in document A/55/339 clearly showed that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was playing an effective role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development adopted by the Stockholm Conference in 1998.

10. In the context of "globalization with a human face", the links between culture and development were undeniable, and were manifested in a view that established a relationship among social, cultural and economic objectives. Consequently, the quantitative view of growth was gradually giving way to an integrated view of development, where the cultural dimension was given full importance, even if it was mainly theoretical. External assistance programmes did not place enough emphasis on the cultural sector, which could truly be an engine of economic growth.

11. The developing countries, especially in Africa, were having to execute structural adjustment programmes at a time when their domestic resources were declining, and they currently lacked the necessary means to promote that sector, essential to endogenous development. Efforts to combat illiteracy, promote national languages and develop artistic creativity urgently required international cooperation. He therefore welcomed the initiative of the World Bank to establish a loan programme for cultural projects, as well as the recommendation that all the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and regional intergovernmental organizations should establish cultural objectives in all their programmes and development activities. However, it was necessary to encourage the establishment of research institutions or cultural centres, the execution of studies based on new sources and data and the widespread dissemination of the

findings in order to contribute to greater cultural awareness and creativity.

12. National independence, territorial integrity and the elimination of economic domination were not enough to create a new international order. Respect for value systems and freedom to choose different styles of development were also needed. Therefore, in order to ensure the involvement and active participation of the people in decisions and development projects, it was necessary to recognize and foster their cultural identity in the context of a global strategy of harmonious development; that meant not only taking into account points of convergence and contact between cultures but also encouraging harmonious coexistence, which was a requirement for mutual respect, understanding and international cooperation.

13. **Ms. Campo** (Venezuela) said that, almost 10 years had elapsed since the proclamation of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade and the adoption of the International Development Strategy for the Decade, yet while progress had been made, the economic situation in developing countries had worsened and they continued to require assistance. The draft text of an international development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium, which was being submitted to the General Assembly at the current session, in order to give further impetus to sustainable development and international cooperation was very timely.

14. Her delegation expressed the fervent hope that the new focus of the strategy would foster effective and efficient activities to promote cooperation between the countries of the North and those of the South, giving the industrialized countries the role of promoting a favourable international economic environment for the participation of all, including policies aimed at achieving sustainable and balanced development.

15. It was in the common interest to build a just and equitable economic system dedicated to the eradication of poverty, in order to attain an acceptable level of well-being on a solid foundation, within the framework of the new international financial architecture. In that way, the developing countries could carry out internal structural reforms in order to promote foreign investment, economic diversification and appropriate technological development to enable them to integrate themselves as active participants in the international economy.

16. Venezuela was implementing an economic revitalization programme aimed at reaching new and higher levels of development. It was fully convinced of the need for a new, more just and equitable system of international cooperation in which achievement of a modern, humane and competitive economy was a top priority. Such a system would be cooperative in the highest sense and would include the noblest social aims of peace, progress and development, namely, curbing of the impoverishment of society, promotion of sustainable economic growth and prevention of marginalization from the world economy.

17. Venezuela urged Member States to conclude more dynamic agreements to strengthen integration, on the basis of participatory democracy, non-intervention and mutual collaboration. All must participate in the reforms under way, with the goal of preparing the developing countries for the challenges of the new era, within a world that was attempting globalization and fundamental economic change.

18. **Mr. Traoré** (Mali) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. As his President had stated, in Mali, the view of sustainable economic development was more general and was based not solely on the laws of the market, but took into account social factors, the need to combat inequality and show respect for the environment, and stressed policies and strategies of integrated development, giving priority to the national poverty reduction strategy. Mali had also adopted a national environmental protection policy related to sustainable development, which integrated the ecological dimension into all decisions on the conception, planning and execution of development policies, programmes and activities.

19. The modalities for execution of the activities planned by his Government required an approach based on shared responsibility and true partnership among all the participants in the fight against poverty. Mali would like to receive United Nations assistance, especially through the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); such assistance could take the form of intensification of UNDP participation in sustainable development activities, raising awareness of donors and development partners to encourage them to participate more fully in the financing of development programmes and increasing the pace of

mobilization of resources for the implementation of the integrated development programme.

20. According to the Human Development Report 2000, the growing poverty and marginalization were undermining the dignity of many countries, and some of them felt rejected by the international community because of their low level of participation in international institutions. If the international community truly wished to build a better world, it must address current problems through national and international measures. In that context, the high-level dialogue on the strengthening of international cooperation, to be held in 2001, would be very important.

21. **Mr. Thakur** (Nepal) said that more and more attention to environmental preservation and sustainable development, and in that regard his delegation welcomed and strongly supported the proclamation, by the General Assembly, of 2002 as the International Year of Mountains. Mountains were an inseparable part of Nepal, both physically and spiritually, and thus, preservation of mountain ecosystems and communities was a priority. People had been existing in the mountains of Nepal for millennia without much environmental damage. However, due to increased human activity and climate change, the situation was changing; increasing population, growing tourism and changing ways of life had begun to pose a serious threat to the mountain ecosystems. Although the precise impact of global warming was yet to be determined, some worrisome trends were being observed, such as erratic rains, decline in river waters, the growing threat of glacial lake overflows, diminishing forest cover and extinction of plant and animal species.

22. His Government, aware of the fragility of the country's mountain ecosystems, had taken a number of measures to preserve them. The number of permits for climbing expeditions had been limited, regulations had been enacted with a view to preventing pollution in tourist areas, a number of areas with tremendous biological diversity had been converted into natural parks and protected areas, and studies were being conducted and measures taken to prevent the potential sudden overflow of glacial lakes.

23. His Government had also launched participatory environment-friendly development programmes in mountain areas, such as the establishment of the Remote Area Development Committee, the Monastery Management Committee, and the Parks and People Programmes, which were helping to improve the population's standard of living, including that of the minorities, particularly women.

24. The role of the Kathmandu-based International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development in the sustainable and integrated development of those areas was commendable. The Centre's activities included promoting sustainable farming systems, encouraging sustainable management of natural resources, building national capacities for implementing development strategies and collecting and disseminating information. A number of Central and East Asian countries had benefited from its research and studies.

25. Although local efforts were essential to protecting mountain ecosystems and their communities, international cooperation was critical to ensuring the success of those efforts and to tackling larger environmental and ecological issues, such as population, pollution, the adoption of technologies, education, health, poverty reduction, employment and global warming. Developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, needed support and cooperation from the international community in order to ensure that their efforts were sustainable and fruitful.

26. **Mr. Ierulescu** (Romania) expressed support for the statement made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. He said that regional integration was a precondition for the integration of a domestic economy into the world economy in the context of a rapid globalization process and that it should be focused on the economic, financial and social sectors. That was also a complementary stage in the case of the economies in transition, since it could spur their economic growth and the adaptation of their institutions with a view to facilitating their integration into the global economy.

27. His delegation commended the assistance provided by the European Union to the economies in transition of Central, Eastern and South-east Europe in order to facilitate effective regional economic integration. It also appreciated the commitment of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation among regional and subregional institutions and to intensify dialogue with civil society and the business community in those countries.

28. New technologies, including information and communication technologies, were another aspect of rapid globalization and, in fact, its most powerful engine. The activities relating to such technology that had been carried out within the framework of the United Nations, particularly the results of the most recent session of the Economic and Social Council, showed that the developed countries were willing to provide assistance in that area to the economies in transition.

29. The United Nations system had provided technical assistance and policy advice in Romania in order to facilitate its integration into the regional and global economy. He emphasized the support the country had received for reform of the public administration, the strengthening of civil society, election administration, economic crisis and conflict prevention, analyses of economic development, training programmes in maritime trade and port management, and population and reproductive health programmes as well as the UNDP Early Warning System and Conflict Prevention project and its project on strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises to promote exports.

30. His delegation believed that, in accordance with the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations should play an important role in supporting the growth of the economies in transition in order to help them integrate fully into the global economy.

31. **Ms. Bai** Yongjie (China) expressed support for the statements made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She said that the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted in the 1990s, were an important landmark in promoting international cooperation for development, and that many of their objectives remained meaningful. Progress — albeit very uneven progress — had been achieved in their implementation. Many developing countries had not only not benefited from globalization but had also been harmed by it. Particularly worrisome in that context was the decline of international cooperation for development. The international community should evaluate both the objectives and the ways and means and time frames established to achieve them and find a way to achieve greater effectiveness.

32. At the major global conferences of the 1990s, many objectives had been formulated and a consensus had been reached on many issues. During the Millennium Summit, solemn commitments to development had also been made; however, what mattered was their effective implementation. Her delegation had noted the draft development strategy for the first decade of the new millennium and took a flexible position as to whether or not it was necessary to negotiate a new development strategy; however, great attention should be focused on the outcomes of the high-level event on financing for development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

33. China had made great efforts to achieve economic and social development and, in the past decade, had introduced unprecedented reforms and structural adjustments in the belief that only through a strategy tailored to its specific conditions and integration into the world economy would it achieve sustainable development. It should also be borne in mind that developing countries were at a lower starting point and needed international support and a favourable external environment.

34. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda would require the efforts of national governments and the support and cooperation of the international community, for which international cooperation would have to be strengthened. During the special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2001 for a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, recommendations should be formulated with a view to resolving questions relating to human settlements and setting priorities for future work in that area on the basis of consensus. China had realized significant achievements in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, inter alia, adequate shelter for all, services and sustainable development of human settlements, and it was also making an effort to strengthen the role of local governments in those areas. Varying conditions in different countries must be taken into account; it would be inappropriate to develop a global legally binding uniform model on "local autonomy", since it would not facilitate international cooperation in the field of human settlements.

35. Culture and development complemented and reinforced each other. Every nation had its unique culture and tradition, on which its survival depended and which contributed to the diversity of world culture.

That was the cornerstone of world peace and development. In the current context of economic globalization and the rapid development of information technology, coupled with the growing interdependence of countries, protection of the diversity of world culture was more important than ever, and respect for it formed the basis for coexistence, dialogue and exchange rather than exclusion. That would help to enhance mutual respect and tolerance among nations and, thereby contribute to peace, security and progress. In that context, China attached great importance to the role of the United Nations in cultural development and welcomed the activities carried out by UNESCO in that area.

36. **Mr. Ayari** (Tunisia) supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and expressed his appreciation for the measures taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) with a view to implementing the recommendations of the Action Plan adopted by the Stockholm Conference. He also praised the efforts of the Conference to make culture a key element of the overall development agenda. Culture, as an essential sphere of human activity and a crucial catalyst of the development process, released energy and built confidence in people's own creative capacities, thereby making a major contribution to all development work.

37. In the face of the challenges posed by the new millennium, Tunisia lent support to the various cultural sectors so that they could fulfil their appropriate functions as the country underwent change. In the current context of globalization, the promotion of each country's culture would make it possible to attain the difficult and essential objective of complementarity of the various cultures. However, that did not call for isolation or a static reaffirmation of specificity but rather an intellectual opening up to others which, at the same time, protected and enriched one's own heritage and lucidly assimilated elements common to diverse cultures.

38. The South Summit held in Havana had emphasized the need to preserve and promote cultural diversity, particularly in the context of globalization, and to make every effort to establish a framework of interaction among various civilizations without exclusion or marginalization. Moreover, as highlighted at the Stockholm Conference, culture today was an industry in the economic sense, and, at the same time, a factor in development, whose importance increased with the growing importance of the services sector in international trade relations and the proliferation of communication networks.

39. Tunisia was aware of such fundamental dimensions in global change and, thus, in recent years, had strengthened its mechanisms for support and incentive to cultural production and promoted partnerships and investments in that sector. It had fostered initiative and production in the various artistic fields and taken a new approach to culture which made it an effective element of production and a profitable sector.

40. Tunisia had promoted adequate laws and incentives to enable culture to adapt to global change and encouraged investments by the private sector, which had responded by undertaking many initiatives and creating very diverse cultural projects and cultural spaces.

41. **Ms. Vargas** (Costa Rica) referred to the report of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) which mentioned the implementation of an international development strategy that included cities without slums. That reference brought to mind the integral development discussed in the United Nations 30 years earlier, in other words, economic, but at the same time, social development, whose focus was the human being. What was certain was that, at the time, it had had only a national and regional perspective. The number of poor persons was now greater and it was appropriate to consider what kind of world would be bequeathed to future generations.

42. In view of the goal to halve poverty, set by the Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit, and of the reference by UNCHS to globalization with a human face, it was to be hoped that the change would take place not only in the choice of language but also in strategy and intentions, and that cities without slums and families with meals and work would be attainable.

Organization of work

43. **The Chairman** orally revised the Committee's programme of work contained in document A/C.2/55/L.1.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.